



REPORT

CORRESPONDENCE

- Letter from the Fort Frances Chiefs Secretariat acknowledging receipt of Earl Klyne's letter of resignation and the appointment of Will Windigo to the Rainy River District School Board.
- Letter from Thames Valley District School Board requesting that OFSAA undertake a review of the transfer policy and in the process, include input from school boards, parents and students.
- Letter from Thames Valley District School Board to Hon. Liz Sandals requesting the Ministry of Education add coding to the Ontario curriculum in JK to grade 8; and asking all school boards in the province asking them to support this change request.



Fort Frances Chiefs Secretariat

P.O Box 522-1455 Idylwild Dr.
Fort Frances, ON P9A 3M8

May 17, 2016

Heather Campbell, Director of Education
Rainy River District School Board
522 Second St. E, Fort
Frances, Ontario
P9A 1N4

Dear Heather:

At our meeting of March 22, 2016, the Fort Frances Chiefs made the following motion that:

“Will Windigo is appointed to the Rainy River District School Board”

Moved by Brian Perrault
Seconded by Tom Johnson
All in favour

We also received Earl Klyne’s letter notifying of his resignation from the Rainy River District School Board dated April, 25, 2016.

Please make arrangements to accept Will Windigo to the Rainy River District School Board. Thank you for your patience.

Sincerely,

Harry Morrisseau, Executive Director

cc. Fort Frances Chiefs



Laura Elliott, Director of Education and Secretary

May 10, 2016

Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations (OFSAA)
3 Concorde Gate, Suite 204
Toronto, ON M3C 3N7

Attention: Ms Donna Howard, Executive Director

Dear Ms. Howard:

Re: OFSAA Transfer Policy

The Thames Valley District School Board wished to express their concern regarding the restrictive nature of the OFSAA transfer policy. On behalf of the Board of Trustees for the Thames Valley District School Board I am sending you this letter to bring to your attention the following motion that was passed at our Regular Meeting of the Board on April 26, 2016.

Moved by Trustee Tisdale, seconded by Trustee Morell and CARRIED:

That the Thames Valley District School Board write to the Executive Director of the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations (OFSAA) in support of the letter from The Bluewater District School Board requesting that OFSAA undertake a review of the exceptions allowed under the current regulations in regards to transferring student athletes between schools, and as part of this review reach out to student athletes, parents, coaches and school board trustees and school board officials for input, and further that our letter be copied to all school board Chairs in Ontario.

In the best interest of students, our Board has developed many specialized programs some of which require a student to attend a school other than their home school. Transition to these programs is often challenging when students in grades 10 through 12 want to move to access programs but are conflicted when they realize that their athletic eligibility will be compromised.

In addition, many students who follow the transfer process and attempt to maintain their eligibility are subjected to a level of scrutiny into personal matters and a demand for documentation that is extreme and beyond what is necessary in the circumstances.

The Thames Valley District School Board is requesting that OFSAA undertake a review of the transfer policy and in the process include input from school boards, parents and students with a view to creating a less restrictive policy.

The Thames Valley District School Board is creating a culture of continuous improvement and driving sustainable results to foster innovation and optimism in learning for all students and staff. As a Board we must be adaptive to help our communities take full advantage of opportunities in order to achieve success. It is only with this, that we can build each student's tomorrow, every day.

Sincerely,

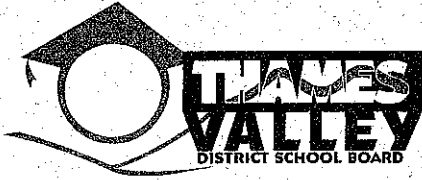
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bill McKinnon', is written over a white background.

Bill McKinnon
Chair of The Board

c.c.: Ontario School Board Chairs
Ontario School Board Directors of Education

Thames Valley District School Board - Office of the Chairperson
1250 Dundas Street, P.O. Box 5888, London, Ontario N6A 5L1 Tel: 519-452-2000 Ext. 20219 Fax: 519-452-2396 website: www.tvdsb.ca

We build each student's tomorrow, every day.



Laura Elliott, Director of Education and Secretary

May 24, 2016

Hon. Liz Sandals,
Ministry of Education
22nd Floor, Mowat Block
900 Bay St,
Toronto Ontario, M7A 1L2

Dear Minister Sandals:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Thames Valley District School Board, I am sending this letter to bring to your attention the following motion that was passed at our Regular Meeting of the board on April 26, 2016,

Moved by J, Skinner, Seconded by R, Campbell:

That the Thames Valley District School Board of Trustees, to ensure its student remain competitive in the field of robotics, computing, and technology, relative to other provincial education systems in Canada and abroad:

- i) Ask the Ontario Ministry of Education to add coding to the Ontario curriculum in JK to grade 8;
- ii) Send a letter to all school boards in the province asking them to support this change request; and,
- iii) Send a letter to the Ontario Public School Board Association requesting their support and advocacy for this curriculum change.

We believe that the world is becoming a more technological place and it is incumbent upon us to provide the education and training that will best prepare our students for the future. Many other jurisdictions are adding coding to their curriculum knowing that it provides students with a competitive advantage in finding employment. Simply stated, technology-based companies are more likely to locate where technology-skilled talent is found.

Thames Valley District School Board - Office of the Chairperson
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We build each student's tomorrow, every day.

Hon. Liz Sandals,
Ministry of Education
22nd Floor, Mowat Block
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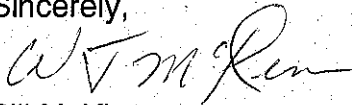
May 24, 2016

Labour market studies have identified a large and immediate shortage of workers in technology fields. The addition of coding to the curriculum will help to develop logic skills which strengthen almost every area of study including math, science and literature. Coding knowledge is an important step towards solving the gender gap in the field of technology. It fosters creativity and strengthens computational skills by moving the student from a passive consumer of technology to an author and creator. Parents and students strongly support this addition to the curriculum.

This rationale has prompted this request and because we receive this change as essential, it comes along with a strong sense of urgency. We hope that you will act to add coding to the Ontario curriculum.

As always, our shared commitment remains focused, We build each student's tomorrow, everyday.

Sincerely,



Bill McKinnon
Chair of the Board

cc OPSBA
Ontario School Board Chairs